REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-18, 25 and 26 have been allowed.

Rejected claims 22-24 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice, applicant reserving the right to file a divisional application covering the subject matter of the canceled claims.

No issue remaining at bar, issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

ELKE HELFTENBEIN

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by telefax to the US PTO, fax number 703-872-9307 on January 31, 2003.

Ingrid Mittendorf

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